WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Opening of Weather Channel

†1320. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether, it is a fact that Government is considering to start a 24 hours Weather Channel;

(b) if so, by when it would be started; and

(c) whether networking of all the weather offices of the country would be done for this channel; if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The goverment is planning to launch a 6 hour weather channel by next year which would be upgraded to 12 hour by 2009 and 24 hour by 2010

(c) Yes Sir. The weather offices in the country are being networked for dissemination of real time meteorological observations and weather forecast between them and India Meteorological Department (IMD) Headquarters. This network will also be used by the proposal weather channel.

Food processing units in Karnataka

1321. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of cases for opening new units for food processing in Karnataka which are pending for clearance with Government; and

(b) by when each of them is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) and (b) There are fifty applications for setting up/ Modernisation of Food Processing Industries in the State of Karnataka which have been pending. This includes fourteen applications in the Rice Milling Sector, eight in Oil Sector, twenty two in the Fruit and Vegetable Processing, three in Consumer Industries, two in Bakery Sector and one in the Dairy processing sector. Consequent on decentralization of processing and disbursement of grant under the scheme through banks and financial institutions, the pending applications are being sent to the concerned banks, from which the units have taken term loan, for sanction and disbursement of grant under the scheme. Necessary funds are also being provided to the banks for disbursement of grant to these units.

Funds for cold storage facilities

1322. DR. K, MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(a) the funds allocated for setting up cold storage facilities at various places alongwith the funds utilized, State-wise, during the last three years;

(b) what has been the demand for such facilities and how much supply has been met; and

(c) whether there would be a policy initiative and time-frame, on priority, to complete these facilities in total?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) to (c) Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) had been providing financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid upto 25% of the cost of plant & machinery and technical civil works in general areas and 33.33% in difficult areas with a common ceiling of Rs. 75 lakhs under the Cold Chain component of 10th Plan Scheme. The assistance under the scheme was limited to cold storages for non-horticulture produces, special type of cold storages with controlled/modified atomosphere technology, cold storages as integral part of processing units or as a common facility in food parks. The budget allocation utilized by the Ministry on infrastructure development including Cold Storages during 2004-2005, 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 was Rs. 11.82 Crore, Rs. 15.65 Crore and 13.21 Crore respectively. The scheme was project specific.

The Directorate of Marketing and Inspection (DMI) under Ministry of Agriculture acts as a nodal agency to promote cold storages in the country by co-ordinating Research & Development in cold storage. As per data maintained by Directorate of Marketing & Inspection (DMI), Ministry of Agriculture, the capacity of cold storages in the country have increased from 195.52 Lakh MT (as on 31.12.2004) to 216.94 Lakh MT (as on 31.12.2006). a statement indicating Sector-wise, State-wise details of cold storage is given (*See* below).

MFPI has submitted a proposal to Planning Commission on a comprehensive Cold Chain Infrastructure Sceheme for 11th Plan for providing financial assistance to various stakeholders for integrated cold chain infrastructure at different levels such as farm level primary processing centre-cum-cold chain, collection/aggregation centers and Strategic Distribution Centers. The initiative undertaken by the Ministry is aimed at filling the gaps in the supply chain, strengthening of cold chain infrastructure leading to overall development of food processing industries and reduction in wastages.

Statement

Sector-wise Distribution of cold storages as on 31/12/2006

Sl. No.	State/UT	Private Sector		Cooperative Sector		Public Sector		Total No.	Total Capacity in MTs
		No.	Capacity	No.	Capacity	No.	Capacity		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands (UT)	01	170	00	00	01	40	02	210

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2.	Andhra Pradesh	255	805759	11	11598	10	3451	276	820808
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	01	5000	00	00	00	00	01	5000
4.	Assam	18	68796	01	1000	04	1120	23	70916
5.	Bihar	220	833382	18	77200	00	00	238	910582
6.	Chandigarh (UT)	05	11216	01	1000	00	00	06	12216
7.	Chhattisgarh	53	265952	01	29	01	41	55	266022
8.	Delhi	75	103210	02	5201	16	17680	93	126091
9.	Gujarat	346	941936	20	24093	08	7739	374	97376
10.	Goa	28	7105	00	00	00	00	28	7105
11.	Haryana	233	377319	04	3403	06	11399	243	392121
12.	Himachal Pradesh	08	11413	02	767	07	6195	17	18375
13.	Jammu & Kashmir	15	40689	03	2134	01	46	19	42869
14.	Jharkhand	17	53210	08	27415	400	00	25	80625
15.	Kerala	161	44628	06	1080	10	1590	177	47298
16.	Karnataka	103	236885	18	6689	17	9594	138	253168
17.	Lakshadweep (UT)	00	00	00	00	01	15	01	15
18.	Maharashtra	354	476667	51	20463	32	13724	437	510854
19.	Madhya Pradesh	154	659020	20	101348	05	2434	179	762802
20.	Manipur	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
21.	Meghalaya	01	1200	00	00	02	2000	03	3200
22.	Mizoram	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
23.	Nagaland	01	5000	01	1150	00	00	02	6150
24.	Orissa	75	191420	15	25000	00	00	90	216420
25.	Pondicherry (UT)	02	35	01	50	00	00	03	85
26.	Punjab	402	1298425	18	39092	00	00	420	1337517
27.	Rajasthan	96	308284	09	3832	01	14	106	312130
28.	Sikkim	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
29.	Tamil Nadu	119	214505	13	7562	04	5162	136	227229
30.	Tripura	02	7750	01	5000	05	5700	08	18450
31.	Uttar Pradesh & Uttarakhand	1477	8642438	87	281480	03	8000	1567	8931918
32.	West Bengal	387	5037042	47	303000	00	00	434	5340042
	TOTAL:	4609	20648456	358	949586	134	95944	5101	21693991

Source: Directorate of Marketing and Inspection, Ministry of Agriculture Website